In light of the fact that this amendment in no way alters the scope of the claim and requires no further examination, it is submitted that the amendment should be entered.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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directing a flowable food material through said tube and out said outlet end in order to fill each of said cavities as the cavities pass said outlet end.

5. The process of claim 4, including the steps of providing a plurality of elongated, laterally spaced apart tubes each presenting an outlet end, continuously creating respective series of aligned food-receiving cavities formed of said deformable material about each of said tubes, and sequentially moving each respective series of said cavities past a corresponding outlet end, and directing a flowable food material through each tube and out the corresponding outlet end in order to fill each of said cavities as the cavities pass said outlet ends.

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6. The process of claim 4, including the step of creating said food-receiving cavities by interconnecting a pair of deformable synthetic resin sheets.

7. The process of claim 6, including the steps of providing a pair of coacting rollers presenting an outer surface and a nip therebetween, each of said rollers including an elongated recess formed in said outer surface thereof, said recesses successively coming into alignment with each other during rotation of the rollers, said creating step comprising the step of passing said sheets through said nip.

8. The process of claim 4, including the step of pressing each of said sheets into a corresponding recess in the adjacent roller, prior to passage of the sheets through said nip.

9. The process of claim 4, one of said rollers including a tube-receiving opening formed in the outer surface thereof, said elongated tube extending through said opening and recess.

10. The process of claim 4, including the step of sealing said deformable material between said cavities after said filling thereof in order to create a series of enclosed, food material-filled packages.

11. The process of claim 8, said sealing step comprising the step of thermally welding said deformable material.

12. The process of claim 8, including the step of separating said packages.

13. The process of claim 4, including the step of exerting a tensioning force on said deformable material during said process.

14. The process of claim 4, said tensioning step comprising the step of passing corresponding side margins of said deformable material through respective pairs of tensioning rollers.

15. Apparatus for the manufacture of a food product, comprising:

first and second adjacent, coacting, rotatable rollers each presenting an outer surface and with a nip therebetween,

said first roller including an elongated first recess formed in said outer surface thereof,

said second roller including an elongated second recess and a tube-receiving opening formed in said outer surface thereof,

said first and second recesses successively coming into alignment with each other during rotation of said first and second rollers;

a sheet feeding mechanism adjacent said first and second rollers for continuously feeding corresponding first and second elongated sheets of deformable material through said nip during rotation of said rollers in order to successively create a series of aligned, food-receiving cavities;

an elongated tube presenting an inlet end and an outlet end and located between said first and second sheets of material and housed within said tube-receiving opening and second recess during said rotation of said rollers;

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a food material feeder operatively coupled with said tube inlet end for passing a flowable food material through said tube and out said outlet end in order to successively fill said food-receiving cavities; and

a cavity sealer operable to seal the ends of said cavities to form enclosed food-filled packages.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, said first roller presenting a plurality of axially spaced apart series of first recesses in said outer surface thereof, each of said series of first recesses including a plurality of axially aligned, circumferentially spaced first recesses, said second roller presenting a plurality of axially spaced apart series of second recesses in said outer surface thereof, each of said series of second recesses including a plurality of axially aligned, circumferentially spaced second recesses, there being a plurality of elongated tube-receiving openings formed in said second roller surface and extending between and communicating the second recesses of each of said series thereof, there further being a plurality of tubes each having an inlet end and an outlet end, each of said tubes being located within a corresponding tube-receiving opening.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, the outer surfaces of said first and second rollers having said first and second recesses therein being removable.

18. The apparatus of claim 13, said mechanism including first and second shapers respectively associated with said first and second rollers in order to force portions of the corresponding first and second sheets into said first and second recesses, and said tube-receiving opening, prior to passage of the first and second sheets through said nip.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, said first and second shapers each comprising an elongated shaft and a series of laterally spaced apart rollers mounted on each shaft, said rollers being located and configured for pressing said portions into said first and second recesses and said tube-receiving opening.

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20. The apparatus of claim 13, said rollers including a sealing device operable to continuously seal together axially extending portions of said first and second sheets during rotation of the rollers.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, including a cooling device downstream of said rollers for cooling said sealed together axially extending portions of said first and second sheets.

22. The apparatus of claim 13, said cavity sealer comprising an elongated heat sealing bar extending transverse to the longitudinal axes of said cavities.

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~~23~~. The apparatus of claim ~~13~~ 13, including a cutting device for cutting excess sheet material from said packages.

Remarks:

Entrance of this preliminary amendment prior to examination on the merits is requested. A fee in the amount of $66.00 to cover the examination costs associated with the newly added claims is submitted; in the event that any additional fee is required, the Office is authorized to deduct the same from Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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